GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:164
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
AIR POLLUTION
Fanthome Shri Francis;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any survey has been conducted by Government to study the outcome of the measures undertaken to control air pollution in the country;

(b) If so,details thereof;

(c) The details of standards/norms fixed by the World Health Organization (WHO)with regards to air quantity;

(d) Whether the Government proposes to initiate any programme to achieve WHO standards/ norms;

(e) if so,the details thereof ; and

(f) The time by which the said norms/standards are likely to achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED to in REPLY to LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.12.2008 RAISED By SHRI L. GOPAL AND SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME REGARDING 'AIR POLLUTION'

(a) &(b) As such , no specific survey has been conducted to study the outcome of the measures undertaken to control air pollution in the country. However, ambient air quality is regularly being monitored as one of ongoing programme known as Natioanl Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution control committees (PCCs). This ongoing programme aims to find out existing air quality and its comparison with previous air quality. The monitoring of ambient air quality and interpretation of data therein helps in determining broadly the out come of various measures adopted by Government to control the Air pollution in the country. Ambient air quality data has revealed that air quality monitored at all the location is within the ambient air quality standards with respect to SO2 and barring few locations, also with respect to NOx. However, the levels of RSPM are exceeding the ambient air quality standerds.

Sources Apportioment Studies in the six metro cities has been undertaken to identify percentage contribution of various sources to ambient particulate matter and report l is being finalized.

(c) The mandate of World Health Organization (WHO) including prescribing guideline in respect of ambient air quality which have been issued from time to time,the latest being in 2005. The recommended revised limits for the concentration of selected air pollutants are annexed (Annexure-I). WHO Guidelines are global in nature and do not take an account of local conditions.

(d) &(e) The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution which inter alia includes implementation of notified emission standards for industries and generator sets. Implementation of action plan of air quality management in 16 cities and sources apportionmrnt studies (SAS) in 6 cities are being carried out.

Implementation of emissions norms for new and in-use vehicles and fuel quality in accordance of the Road Map of the Auto Fuel Policy, introduction of the cleaner fuel in public transport and strengthening of mass transportation is underway. Use of beneficiated/ blended coal in thermal power plants has been introduced.

A Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) is being implemented in identified 17 categories of higher polluting industries. Action plans are being executed in identified 24 critically polluting areas. Environmental Clearance has been made mandatory for establishment of certain categories of polluting industry, construction and infrastructure projects.

(f) It is difficult to allocate a time line for achievement to said WHO Air quality Guidelines, but Government will make all efforts in this regard since improving air quality is an ongoing activity.